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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*



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4 March 1975

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WEEKLY SITUATION REPORT

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Articles:

Abduction and Murder of U.S. Consular Agent in Argentina
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~~SECRET~~ARTICLESAbduction and Murder of U.S. Consular Agent in Argentina

Last week John P. Egan, the U.S. Consular Agent in Cordoba, Argentina, was abducted and murdered by a group of terrorists believed to be members of the Montoneros. There is increasing concern that Egan's murder may be the start of a new wave of terrorism directed against U.S. citizens in Argentina.

the objective of such a campaign would be to force the Argentine government to treat leftist captives more humanely. Further, a 27 February press dispatch reported that leaflets distributed by Egan's kidnappers stated that Egan was the "first on a long list of servants of imperialism in Argentina..." who will have to "render accounts." 3.3(b)(1)

Egan was abducted on the evening of 26 February. Local press and radio reported that Egan was seized by twelve terrorists driving three cars. According to Egan's wife, two men and a woman entered Egan's home, which also serves as an office, and began to discuss the possibility of obtaining visas. They then pulled guns and after shouting for money, began leading Egan away. When Mrs. Egan protested, the terrorists threw ether at her face in an attempt to subdue her. Before leaving with Egan, the terrorists scattered leaflets and painted the word "Montoneros" on the side of the house. Mrs. Egan said that besides the three who abducted her husband, there were two other terrorists outside the house. Mrs. Egan called the police after the terrorists departed.

Normally the Egan residence is guarded by the local police, but Mrs. Egan said that the police guards had not been around for some time. The reason for their removal is not yet clear.

Egan's abduction set off a massive search by provincial and federal authorities. On 27 February the kidnappers issued a communique which stated that the Hugo Figueroa and Hugo Baretta commands of the Emilio Mazza Column of the Montoneros were responsible for Egan's abduction. The communique then listed the names of four imprisoned Montoneros and gave the government until 7:00 p.m. on 28 February to publicly produce them, or Egan would die. 3.5(c)

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] only one of the four individuals on the list was in custody and in good enough condition to be brought in front of television cameras. The Argentine Foreign Ministry reported that two persons on the list had been abducted by an unknown group and that their whereabouts were unknown. [Redacted] the fourth individual on the list had undergone "harsh interrogation" and was therefore in no shape to appear publicly.

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Shortly after the deadline set by the kidnapers, the Argentine Foreign Minister announced that the government would not deal with extremist groups. At 10:00 p.m. Egan's body was found outside Cordoba, wrapped in a Montonero banner which read "Peron or Death." Egan had been shot in the head.

Although the Montoneros have claimed responsibility for the murder, the identity of the kidnapers remains uncertain. There are indications that the operation was a joint effort by the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) and the Montoneros or that the act may have been carried out by a dissident faction of the Montoneros. Until the identity of the perpetrators has been firmly established, the seriousness of the situation and the potential threat to the U.S. community in Argentina will not be known.

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CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST ACTS

Date: 26 February 1975

U.S. Consul Murdered by Leftist Guerrillas.

Place: Argentina, Cordoba

The U.S. Consular Agent in Cordoba, John Patrick Egan, was kidnapped by a group of armed men who reportedly are members of the left-wing Montoneros guerrilla organization. Forty-eight hours later, when their demands were not met, they murdered Egan. [Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

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[Redacted]

I. Terrorist Threats and Plans:

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Target: U.S. CITIZENS

** The ERP plans to engage in spectacular terrorist acts in Buenos Aires province in the near future, such as sabotage,

Place: Argentina

** Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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Date: Unspecified

assassinations and abductions,

[Redacted]

Such terrorist acts will be designed to divert public attention from the Army's counterinsurgency sweep and to attempt to demonstrate ERP's continued viability.

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] an ERP leader claims the abduction of U.S. Consular Agent John Egan, which he said was a joint ERP/Montoneros operation, is the beginning of an ERP campaign to pressure the Argentine government to treat captured terrorists more humanely and U.S. citizens in Argentina would be the primary targets. (Comment: ERP involvement in Egan's death has not been confirmed.)

[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Block]

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Wave of Argentine Terrorist Threats Against Foreigners
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Wave of Argentine Terrorist Threats Against Foreigners

In the wake of the late February abduction and murder of U.S. Consular Agent John P. Egan [redacted] various sources have reported plans by different terrorist groups in Argentina to increase their activities in the near future in an effort to pressure the government to negotiate the release of captured terrorists, to persuade the government to treat imprisoned terrorists more humanely, and to demonstrate their strength. Such operations will be targeted against foreign officials because the terrorists feel they will have greater leverage for negotiating with the government if they have foreigners as hostages.

3.3(b)(1)

Argentine authorities have information that an unspecified terrorist group plans to kidnap the U.S. Ambassador between 10 and 14 March, but not to assassinate him. The Argentine government is taking this report very seriously, and protection of the Ambassador and visiting Assistant Secretary Rogers has been increased. [redacted] the group is made up of guerrillas from various Latin American countries and plans to blow up an electric power plant as well as to kidnap the Ambassador. They have several planes available for these operations. Some Argentine officials, however, doubt the validity of this information.

3.3(b)(1)

On 9 March the Montoneros attacked an American-owned Chrysler-Fevre plant in San Justo, a short distance outside the capital, to protest the visit to Argentina of Assistant Secretary of State Rogers and to "affect materially the property of a firm representative of exploitation and dependency to which the Argentine people is submitted."

[redacted] in February that the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) was planning to commit spectacular terrorist acts in Buenos Aires province, such as sabotage, assassination and abductions, in order to divert public attention from the army's counterinsurgency sweep and to try to demonstrate the ERP's continued viability.

3.3(b)(1)

[redacted] an ERP leader claims the Egan abduction was a joint ERP-Montoneros operation and is the beginning of an ERP abduction campaign, primarily of U.S. citizens, to pressure the Argentine government to treat captured terrorists more humanely. It has not been definitely determined

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[redacted]
who assassinated Egan. However, this ERP leader said operations similar to Egan's abduction must increase because there is an increased climate of repression in Argentina and because of the potential to negotiate the release of imprisoned terrorists.

[redacted] a Montonero leader also said Egan's death is only the beginning. The Montoneros will attempt additional abductions of foreigners and high-level Argentine officials. The ERP reportedly would support such operations, especially those directed against U.S. and British citizens.

3.3(b)(1)

The thrust of these plans seems to be to pressure the Argentine government into negotiating with the terrorists, which it rarely has done in the past. An event such as Egan's assassination usually gives rise to an increase in reported terrorist threats, and some of these may be more talk than firm planning. The U.S. community is, of course, increasing its vigilance since Egan's death, and it can be assumed that the Argentine government will intensify its already active counter-terrorist campaign.

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[redacted]

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[redacted]

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Date: 9 March 1975

Argentine Guerrillas Bomb Chrysler Plant.

Place: Argentina,
San Justo

Leftist guerrillas bombed new cars on a production lot at the Chrysler-Fevre plant in San Justo, 15 miles west of Buenos Aires, causing extensive damage. No casualties have been reported. A communique from the Montonero guerrillas warned of future violence against "octopus" American interests.

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I. Terrorist Threats and Plans:

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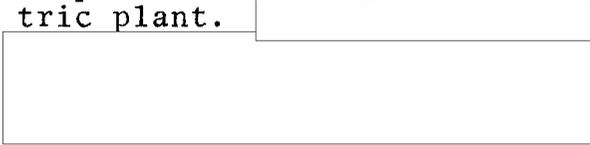
Target: U.S. AMBASSADOR

Place: Argentina

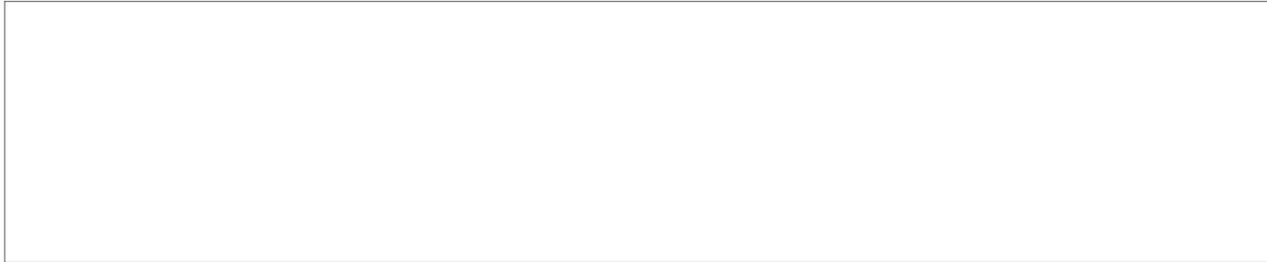
Date: Current

** The government of Argentina has information that a terrorist group plans to kidnap the U.S. Ambassador between 10 and 14 March. However, some Argentine officials doubt the validity of this information. Reportedly the group, made up of guerrillas from various Latin American countries, also plans to blow up an electric plant.

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** Indicates a new threat reported for the first time.

* Indicates a revision of a threat reported in previous issues.

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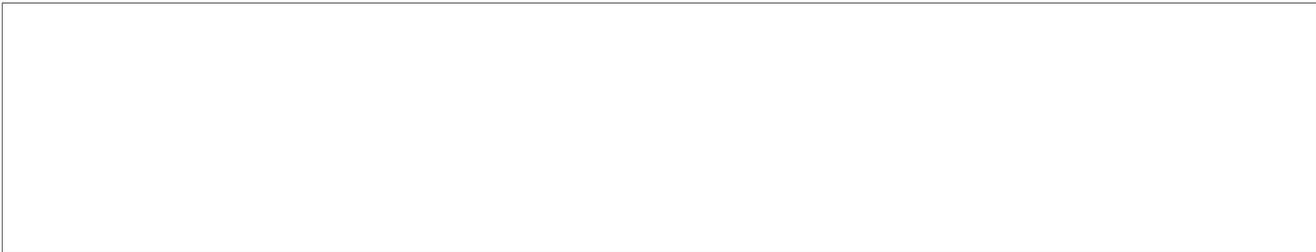
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TAB B - Terrorist Threats and Plans



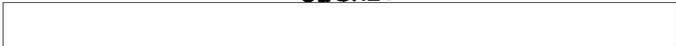
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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Date: Current

Target: U.S. AMBASSADOR

Place: Argentina

Date: Current

The government of Argentina has information that a terrorist group planned to kidnap the U.S. Ambassador between 10 and 14 March. However, some Argentine officials doubt the validity of this information. (Comment: While the target date has passed, the group may still plan to carry out the operation.)

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[Redacted]

Target: Foreign Residents

Place: Argentina

Date: Current

* [Redacted]

Montoneros are planning further abductions of foreigners and high-level Argentine officials as a means to protect or exchange captured revolutionaries and to embarrass the government.

[Redacted] the ERP would support such operations, especially against the British and U.S.

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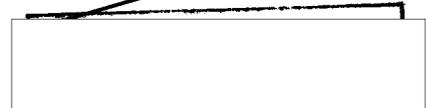
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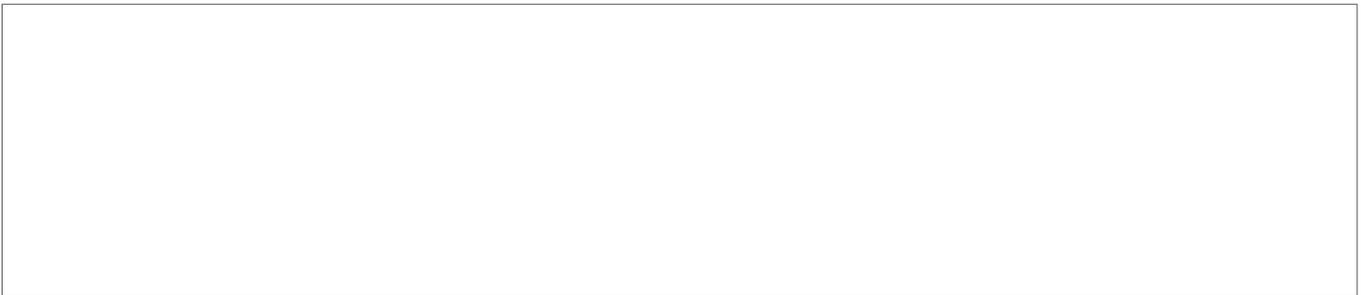
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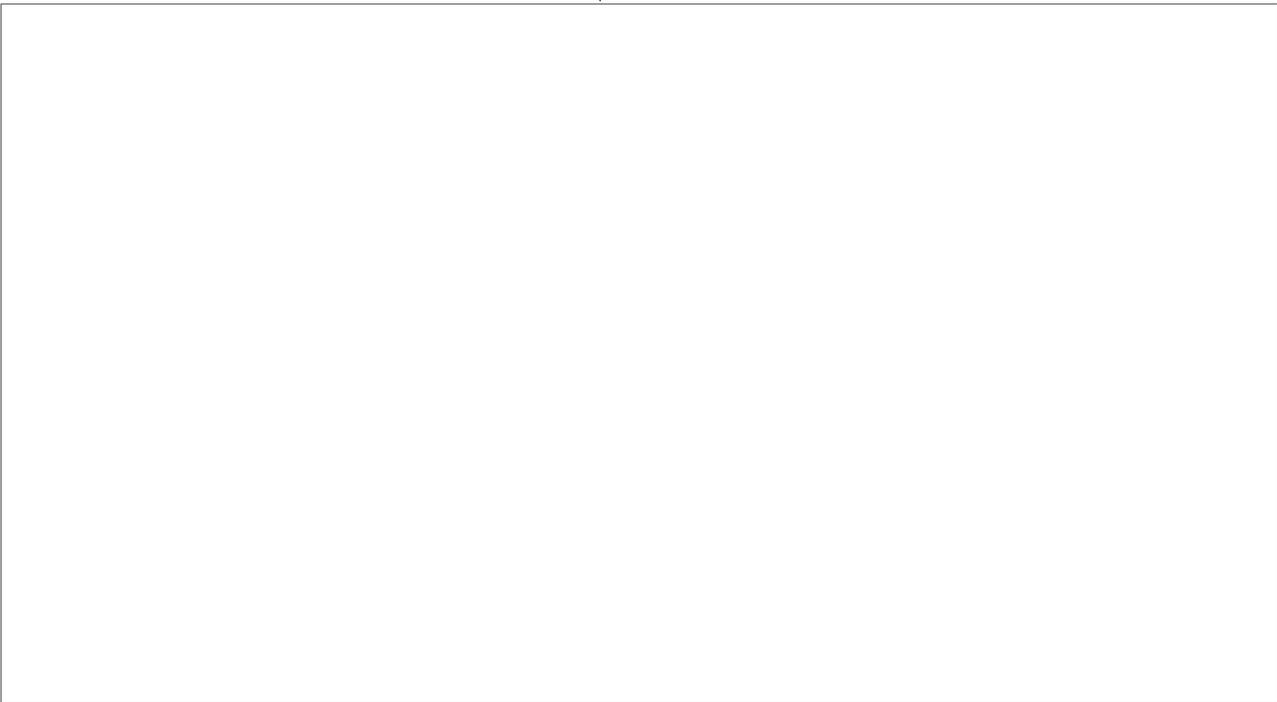
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Possible Surveillance by Terrorists of U.S. Diplomats and Dependents in Argentina (Page 7)



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Possible Surveillance by Terrorists of U.S. Diplomats and Dependents in Argentina

Tension among U.S. diplomatic personnel in Buenos Aires was heightened during the last two weeks by three instances of possible surveillance or harassment by Argentine terrorists. The first incident which involved the 16-year-old daughter of the U.S. Defense Attache occurred on 10 March. On her way home from a railroad station, she was harassed by an unidentified male of Spanish origin who was driving a Fiat 600. The man followed her in his car and attempted to strike up a conversation, asking her to join him in his car. When he was ignored, he departed the area and then reappeared four times on her route home and did the same thing. When she arrived home, the man stated in Spanish, "You see, I told you I know where you live. Now you see that I was telling the truth. We know where you live. Take care of yourself." The incident was reported to the police but they could not identify the vehicle as they did not have a license number. She has been placed under protective surveillance by the Federal Police.

The second incident, which occurred 13 March, may have been an abduction attempt directed against the U.S. Defense Attache. He was returning home in his automobile when he noticed two cars parked in front of a local theatre. One of the cars pulled out in front of his vehicle and stopped; the second car pulled up behind in an apparent attempt to block him in. The chauffeur noticed the second car, made a sharp-left turn and raced away at high speed. Even though the two cars did not pursue the attache's vehicle and the occupants of the car did not expose any weapons or show a hostile attitude, the attache felt that it was unusual for any cars to be parked in front of the theatre at that time, as the theatre did not open until later in the evening; also, one of the cars was occupied by three men and one woman, which is the normal make-up of terrorist kidnapping or assassination squads. The police were notified and searched for the vehicles, but without success.

The third incident occurred on 19 March when the Regional Security Officer left the Embassy and was followed by three males and a female in a white Peugeot with no front license plate. They tailgated him for a considerable distance, even when he employed various countersurveillance techniques including driving around the block. Finally, the RSO exposed his firearm so that it could be seen through the rear window of his

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car. The Peugeot dropped back about 50 feet and continued following for about a mile and a half. The incident was reported to the Argentine authorities but the vehicle could not be traced.

U.S. officials on the scene concede that it is difficult to definitely establish that any of the above incidents are directly related to terrorist actions. There is speculation that the incident involving the RSO may have been a target of opportunity kidnap attempt or a surveillance to identify diplomatic license tags belonging to the U.S. Embassy. The RSO feels that this incident points up the dangers of Embassy personnel travelling to and from the chancery alone on weekends when the streets are almost deserted in the daylight hours.

It is difficult to assess the true nature of these incidents, but since they follow so close to the Egan murder and Montonero threats to attack diplomatic personnel [redacted] they cannot be dismissed. They may be the work of clumsy terrorists or they may be part of a harassment campaign designed to break the nerve of U.S. diplomatic personnel.

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[Redacted]

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[Large Redacted Area]

Target: Foreign Residents

Place: Argentina

Date: Current

A member of a revolutionary group has reported that the Montoneros are planning further abductions of foreigners and high-level Argentine officials as a means to protect or exchange captured revolutionaries and to embarrass the government. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] the ERP would support such operations, especially against British and U.S. targets. The U.S. Embassy has reported some officials have been under possible surveillance [Redacted]

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